

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEHRAN 02991 281152Z
ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 IO-06 NSC-06 INR-05 CIAE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
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INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY
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AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIROITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 02991

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: XF
SUBJ: DISCUSSION WITH SHAH ON SITUATION IN SOUTH LEBANON

1. DURING AUDIENCE WITH SHAH ON OTHER MATTERS MORNING MARCH 28,
WE BRIEFLY DISCUSSED SITUATION IN SOUTH LEBANON. SHAH SAID HE
HAD BEEN RELUCTANT USE IRANIAN TROOPS IN ANYTHING BUT INTERIM
MODE BECAUSE HE FEELS UNIFIL TASK MAY BE IMPOSSIBLE TO ACCOMPLISH.
HIS GREATEST CONCERN IS THAT THERE WILL BE NO RPT NO LEBANESE
FORCES CAPABLE OF TAKING OVER RESPONSIBILITY AND ASSURING
LEBANESE SOVEREIGNTY IN THE REGION.

2. HE SAID LEBANON CAN HARDLY BE CALLED A STATE ANY MORE,
AND IT CERTAINLY CANNOT BE SAID TO HAVE AN ARMY. THEREFORE SARKIS
HAS A REAL PROBLEM IN TRYING TO MUSTER LEBANESE TROOPS FOR DUTY
IN THE SOUTH. IF HE SENDS CHRISTIANS, THEY WILL BE
RESENTED AND RESISTED. IF HE SENDS MUSLIMS, THEY WILL BE
ANTI-ISRAEL AND POSSIBLY SYMPATHETIC WITH PLO. IF HE
SENDS A MIXED FORCE, HE WILL HAVE MAJOR PROBLEMS OF
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DISCIPLINE.

3. SHAH'S CONCLUSION IS THAT UNIFIL WILL HAVE TO STAY
FOR A LONG TIME AND THAT IT WILL NEVER HAVE THE STRENGTH
TO DOMINATE THE PALESTINE UNITS IN THE AREA. IF THESE IN
TURN HAVE BEEN SIGNIFICANTLY AUGMENTED BY IRAQIS, HE PREDICTS
A HOST OF TROUBLES FOR THE ENTERPRISE.

SULLIVAN

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NNN

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